

SENATOR FOWLER: Okay. Well this would be a different situation if it's just going to Omaha. Wouldn't it?

SENATOR BEREUTER: I have no strong feelings about it, Senator Fowler. But I would worry about the quorum that is necessary to conduct the business that is here.

SENATOR FOWLER: Okay. Thank you.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Fowler, did you have any motion, or are you just asking a question?

SENATOR FOWLER: I'll wait.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: All right. Okay. Senator Frank Lewis, did you wish to speak on this? Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the resolution that has been proposed by Senator Merz. I don't think there is hardly room for an honest to God farmer, anymore, on the bandwagon. There are so many politicians, at least those running for office, have already gotten on. I think this Legislature has gone on record in being in support of the farm strike. I think it's a matter of record that this Legislature has been in support of agriculture for a lot longer than I was here, and that's ten years. I think the Legislature has time, after time, after time, in matters of taxation and other issues, supported agriculture, and has done so forcefully and effectively. I point out, as has Senator Bereuter, that this Legislature has actually no ability to influence the Secretary of Agriculture. It's been demonstrated that he can't be influenced by the Governor of this state. I think it's a matter of record that if anyone wants to do something the Secretary of Agriculture can, today yet, he has plenty of time, set the price of farm products at 90 percent of parity. He's not going to do that. He said he's not going to do that. The President would not allow him to do that. I think it's a matter of record. I think Senator Chambers touched upon it. If agriculture is going to be profitable, that it's only going to be profitable by its own actions. I think that the action of those individuals who are involved in the farm strike is the first time in more than 40 years that farmers have felt compelled to visibly demonstrate in the nation's capitals the sad economic situation in which many of us find ourselves. In defense of agriculture, and in response to Senator Chambers I would like to point out that Nebraska agriculture and Midwest agriculture is in difficulty today because of adverse action by the federal government. I want to point out, with some embarrassment, that that covers all administrations for the last 40 years. I want to point out also that this body, a number of years ago when the federal government declared the infamous price freeze on retail beef, precipitated the situation in which we find ourselves today. That problem was further compounded by embargos against wheat, feed grain and soybeans. At a time when we had markets overseas the federal government refused to allow farmers to sell those products overseas. I would like to suggest that today, when all of us, including myself as an elected person, speak out in support of agriculture, it takes more than speaking. You must have some ability to communicate. There are those of us here who have disagreed time, after time, after time about issues. But the thing we have learned is that in order to be effective we have to explain our problem to our colleagues.